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THE FARMER.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1833.

ON READING AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

I apprehend that the passage referred to in the valediction of the late able Editor of the American Farmer, has been misunderstood. "A DESIRE TO READ" political papers, amusing anecdotes, and fictitious adventures, is not uncommon; but this is not the kind of reading that was meant; neither is it such as a friend to Agriculture could recommend. The simple fact that a majority of the subscribers to the Genesee Farmer *are not farmers*,—is enough to prove a lamentable want of true taste among many of the proprietors of the soil.

To have *no* "DESIRE TO READ" agricultural papers, is *one* thing; and to hold them in contempt, may be *another*. It is probable that G. B. Smith had both in view when he wrote. I know some farmers who sneer at the intimation that there is something yet for them to learn—and they are not far wrong; for owing to their obstinacy, prejudice, and self-sufficiency, they are not in the way to learn. I never found one of this class among our BEST FARMERS.

The idea, though so plain, that no man can be too well informed of his own business,—seems never to have entered their heads. Ask them to subscribe for the Genesee Farmer, and they reply, "La! we know more about farming already than we can practice." These would fairly come in for a share of that inheritance.

Another class of farmers say on such occasions, "We take as many papers as we can possibly *read* or *afford*"—not an agricultural paper among them! Their right to that bequest would also be undisputed.

He who feels sure that he knows enough, is not far advanced in knowledge; and hence it is that many of our old stock of farmers are left on the back-ground by men who were never brought up to the business. In looking round the country, I find that some of our best farmers have been mechanics—from the currier's board, the lapstone, and the anvil; and similar cases have been observed in other countries,* and in other kinds of business. In England, it has been remarked of the manufacturers, that nearly all the improvements have been introduced by men from other employments. The old stock, like those who hold *book farming* in contempt, were content to know no more than their fathers.

I do not mean that an apprenticeship to farming is of no use, or that it does not give persons so educated, great advantages; but I mean if such persons think they have learned every thing within that period, worth knowing; or that it is useless to read or converse on agricultural subjects for the purpose of knowing more,—they are greatly mistaken; and I am therefore of opinion that the late Editor of the American Farmer gave wise counsel to our farmers when he said, "*Read agricultural papers that you may obtain agricultural knowledge.*"

*Gen. Far. vol. 6, p. 296, col. 2, near the bottom.

WHEATLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We publish in another part of this paper the annual Address delivered at the late meeting of the Wheatland Agricultural Society; and we commence the publication of the REPORTS, made to the same meeting, with the following

REPORT ON TILLAGE,

BY MR. JOHN M'VEAN.

The object of tillage, is to pulverize the soil, decompose and reduce its vegetable matter, increase its fertility, by the successive exposure of its parts to the influence of the atmosphere; reference being had to its progressive improvement and continued capacity, to produce the greatest crops of cultivated plants. To the successful pursuit of agriculture, it is indispensable, that the operation be well performed; pulverizing and reversing the soil effectualiy, to an uniform and sufficient depth; that the vegetable decomposition may pervade and expand the whole mass; stimulating it to the germination and vigorous growth of the crop; the produce being generally more in proportion to the weight of the soil which is tilled, than to the surface which is run over.

On this subject, however, your committee cannot hope to suggest any improvement; the practical tillage of our own farmers, being perhaps, unsurpassed in any section of the country.

As respects the most proper time of applying tillage, for various crops, I believe it is generally conceded, that the fall is the best time to plough for certain spring crops, as oats and barley, especially on heavy lands, as they are seldom dry enough in season for spring cultivation: and moreover the winter frosts have a fine effect in pulverizing such soils, and likewise in restoring them when ploughed wet in the fall.

Corn has been very successfully cultivated with one efficient ploughing applied immediately before planting; I believe this to be a very good practice; and much preferable to fall ploughing.

Fall ploughing for wheat is improper, under common circumstances; and land should perhaps never be ploughed when very wet; although a certain degree of moisture is beneficial, in decomposing the sod of old meadows and pastures; and such lands if not better applied to corn, will bear and even require earlier cultivation as fallows, than stubble or recent clover ley.

There is some reason to believe, that lands of a light hot gravely mold, may under some circumstances, be improved, by applying the last ploughing for wheat, when the land is wet, as it gives them additional weight and firmness, so much required by that crop. There is but little such land however in this section, and as a general rule the dryer the land when ploughed the better.

The proper depth of tillage must be governed by the nature and state of soils, and the crops to be produced. As my agricultural experience has been confined to the soil of this section, I propose before remarking more particularly on this subject, to offer my opinion with regard to the nature of our soil. Premising that when not otherwise specified, reference is had to the cultivation of wheat, this being the leading crop of our country.

I am not aware that the soil in this section which has been denominated Oak openings, is at this time essentially different from that of the wood or rolling up-lands of the surrounding country, where both have been subjected to the same course of cultivation. Originally however this was not the case. An accumulated mass of vegetable matter covered the wood lands, which when mixed with the soil gave fair crops with imperfect cultivation, which might be performed among the stumps and roots with a single pair of oxen, and this without reference to the soil beneath.

With the Oak openings it was different. The annual burning of the tall grass which grew upon them by the aborigines, prevented the growth of timber, and also that collection of vegetable matter, which was found upon the wood lands, the whole surface presenting the forbidding appearance of naked barren plains. The soil was penetrated with fibrous roots of grasses and ferns which sprung up annually, as well as those of willows, small oak and hickory bushes, demanding when first ploughed the united strength of 8 or 10 oxen to urge the ponderous breaking-up plough through the stubborn soil, which might with propriety, be called all sub-soil with the exception of an inch or so at the surface, which consisted of matted crowns of grass, exhibiting the same uniform, unfertile, lifeless appearance, and producing crops of wheat which would not exceed fifteen bushels per acre.

These were the discouraging prospects of the cultivator at the commencement of the oak openings, but by perseverance which overcomes so many obstacles, their labors were crowned with success. The soil has continued to improve in fertility beyond the expectations of the most sanguine operator, yielding at this time, thirty, forty, and in many instances, fifty bushels of wheat per acre, of a quality that has done much towards establishing in the New York markets, the superior character of Genesee Flour. This fertility of soil has been produced by the common course of cropping, and that without the stimulous or application of barn-yard manures; demonstrating that the soil possesses within itself, materials which will continue its productiveness under a proper course of tillage.

It may be inquired what has been the cause of this increased fertility of the soil.

The secondary causes have been, a constant attention to pulverizing the soil, and exposing it to the influence of the atmosphere, by a continued course of cultivation, and the annual additions of vegetable matter which has accumulated under a judicious course of cropping, by pastur-

age, and stubble, but more especially by cultivation of clover and the use of plaster.

The primary cause and that on which rests its permanent fertility, and enduring capacity, is the nature and quality of the sub-soil, which while it allows a filtration of the superabundant moisture, is at the same time of sufficient tenacity to retain the fertalizing properties of manures, and by exposure to the atmosphere, may be converted into an excellent soil, to any depth that may be required. This convertibility of the sub-soil, into one of extreme fertility, and which characterizes the best wheat soils of this section, has often been remarked upon, and confirmed by the immediate productiveness of the sub-soil, which has been thrown from the bottoms of cellars and wells. What the cause of this immediate productiveness of the sub-soil is, can only be determined by chimical analysis. We can only draw our conclusions, as to the constituent principles by observing the relation that exists between causes and effect, and we fear that they are too often neglected by many, who unprofitably exhaust the shallow mold of the surface, by repeated workings, forgetful of the means of wealth, which lies beneath, yet perfectly at their disposal.

With the means of forming a soil of any required depth, at our disposal, the question presents itself—" how deep shall we plough ?" In reply to this I would say, "plough deep." A few good crops may be raised with shallow surface ploughing, on a rich soil, but when it becomes exhausted, in dry weather it will be found full of hard lumps, and dust, and in wet, a clammy compound, injured if ploughed in that situation, or baked to hardness by draught, and accordingly the crops will be light and thin, suffering for want of nourishment as it approaches maturity, will be inferior both in quality and quantity.

On the other hand, when soils are ploughed sufficiently deep, the results are the reverse, in every particular. In wet weather it equalizes the moisture, and what is of more consequence, with our soils and climate, in dry weather, it resists the effect of heat, from its increased depth, retaining a sufficient quantity of moisture for the support of plants, or for the decomposition of vegetable matter; crops grow up thick and strong, surmounting better every vicissitude or change of climate, while growing, leaving the soil enriched with a heavy stubble after they are removed. Without seeding, such soils in this section, are soon covered with a thick crop of white clover, which much improves them for succeeding crops. The roots of our cultivated crops, rarely penetrate the sub-soil, therefore the advantage of deep ploughing, must appear evident to every close observer.

In the spring of 1825, in searching for sand, I examined one of my fields in several places without success. The soil was that of our common oak openings, and very much exhausted as it had received only shallow ploughings. The best crop had been corn. As the sub-soil appeared inviting, I had the field ploughed in June, with a strong team as deep as one of Wood's ploughs would work, adding at once, at least one third, to the weight of worked soil. It was cross-ploughed and sowed at the usual time, and the crop was uncommonly good both as to quality and quantity. I have continued the same course of tillage upon that, and other lands of the same description, as far as practicable and with similar success. It is true that some of the crops have been injured by the Hessian fly, others from the density of their foliage and the excessive heat of the season have lodged, but have not failed for want of nourishment. With these exceptions the results of the above course of tillage has been an improvement in the appearance and quality of the land, and a very great reduction in the cost of cultivation. Such also has been the results on neighboring farms so far as I have been acquainted, where the same course of tillage has been adopted.—Whether these beneficial effects will continue, and to what extent, time and further experience must determine. I have no doubts, however, as to the success, and am confident that the most favorable results will follow this course of cultivation on most of our up-lands of the country. I would observe that ploughing to this depth is not necessary at each time, as the intervening ploughings, to the wants and habits of the crops to be cultivated.

Having bestowed the most careful and serious consideration, upon the subject of deep ploughing as a general rule, whether with regard to the improvement of the soil, or the wealth or prosperity of the operator, I am convinced that the admonition of Poor Richard will apply to every farmer in this community.

" Plough deep, while sluggards sleep,
" And you shall have corn to sell and to keep."

I am aware that there are small portions of up-lands, which have loose sandy or gravel sub-soils to which deep ploughings might prove injurious; and also larger portions, of low, or cold moist lands, where the sub-soil is a tenacious clay which would not be benefited by bringing up too much of it at any one time. These must be mixed by degrees, otherwise when the surface mold becomes exhausted, it will be difficult to sustain them in a productive state without the application of manures.

With regard to the frequency of ploughing some difference of opinion has existed. It has been the common practice to commence summer fallows according to their extent, and the means which the farmer has at his command. Sometimes this operation has been commenced as early as April, but more commonly in May or June, and between that time and sowing the seed, the land is more commonly ploughed and harrowed two or three times. The extent to which this practice has obtained in this section, may be considered as proof of its utility, and doubtless in many instances it is quite necessary, not only for the purpose of rendering the sub-soil light and friable, but for destroying the noxious weeds which may have increased upon the surface.—Frequent and deep ploughings were absolutely necessary in the early cultivation of our soil, which as has been observed, in its original state presented a sterile, lifeless appearance proceeding from the absence of vegetable matter, and perhaps the presence of some acid in the soil which was unfriendly to vegetation.

This original state of the soil, has been so changed by cultivation, that it cannot now be said to be the same, that it was when first it was operated upon, and it now becomes an enquiry of importance, whether a different mode of culture should not be adopted in consequence of this change ?

There are many circumstances which would induce a belief, that most of the soil with us has now arrived at that point of fertility, when frequent ploughings may not only cease to improve, but actually impoverish the soil. If it is admitted that soils can be injured by too frequent ploughings, then the inquiry will be, as to the amount of tillage, which will be found most profitable, both for the present crop and those which are to succeed, upon the same lands.

That soils may be injured by too frequent tillage under certain circumstances, was demonstrated to me by the following experiments.

A field on which the preceding crop had been corn, of a heavy soil, was prepared for wheat by five ploughings, and eight harrowings, commencing in May, and given at intervals between that and the common time of sowing. This was in 1828, which season was rather wet, and the crop of wheat which followed was comparatively light and the soil was so injured as not yet to have recovered its former fertility.

In 1832 an acre of wheat stubble which was infested with the plant, commonly called wild rye, was prepared for wheat, by five ploughings commencing in June, and harrowed not less than twelve times. This extra tillage did not prove beneficial to the crop, in short it was inferior to that upon a part of the same field, which was rather grassy, and was only ploughed and harrowed three times. The effect upon the soil remains yet to be ascertained, but as the soil was of a fine friable loam, and the weather generally dry, I do not anticipate the result so unfavorable as in the first experiment.

There is no doubt, but that if a piece of land was kept as a fallow, for two or three years, with frequent ploughings, so as to exclude the growth of plants it would have a ruinous effect upon the soil, by dissipating all vegetable matter, and leaving it in a state from which it requires years to recover it.

Do we not approach this, whenever we apply unnecessary tillage, or give our lands a greater number of ploughings than are necessary to subdue the grasses and pulverize it for the reception of the seed ?

During the time that vegetable matter is undergoing decomposition, it has the effect to loosen, or expand the soil, fitting it for the extension of the young roots, of cultivated crops, and also for the free circulation of the food of plants produced by the decomposition, but these effects are lost where a long course of fallowing is pursued, as the time of the greatest decomposition is past before seed is committed to the ground.

The object of tillage then appears to be to prepare the soil in the shortest space of time required, to bring the vegetable matter, deposited in the soil, into that state when it shall act as food for the plants to be introduced, with the greatest effect. This I imagine, in most cases may be effected, in less time than is generally devoted to summer fallowing, and so far as my observations have been directed to this subject, the most favorable results have followed, short fallowing, both with regard to the crop and the

after condition of the soil. When applied within the above limitation, frequent tillage, may not be so exceptional, yet even then by repeated exposure to the atmosphere, much of the vegetable matter may be dissipated which otherwise would be retained in the soil, as food for the plants to be cultivated.

Perhaps when our soils have been mixed to a sufficient depth, so as to render cultivation easy the best system of tillage will be found, that which experiment has recommended, and which many of you now pursue, viz: to give but one deep ploughing for each crop, by which the vegetable matter from the surface will be placed in the best possible condition, to act, as a stimulent upon the crop, and the undecomposed parts retained to prevent future tenacity of the soil.

Should not this system of tillage, so plausible in theory, be attended with any unforeseen injurious effects, I can see no reason, why, by the use of plaster and clover, our soils may not only be made to produce wheat, in the greatest perfection our climate will admit of, but be increased in fertility to that extent, as to require to be reduced, by those crops which draw a larger quantity of food from the soil.

JOHN M'VEAN.

TO PREPARE COLD POTATOES.

Some of your readers may start, and ask 'Who don't know how to warm cold potatoes?' Why a great many don't know how to do it as it should be done. In traveling I have rarely met with potatoes prepared in the following manner, and I never found any that were half as good. Tastes differ I admit, but the experiment is easily made.

Slice them into a frying-pan; and over a quart of potatoes, pour half a tea-cup full of good cream (but no water), first sprinkling on a little salt. Cover it closely; and after it begins to boil, stir them a few times, till the pan is nearly dry, but not burnt. Then dish them. r

For the Genesee Farmer.

HIGHWAYS—No. X.

I have now arrived at my *tenth number* without having received one word of encouragement from any quarter. This may have arisen from a dislike in our good citizens to innovation; and a partiality for old habits which have become a second nature. Yet I am not certain that this indifference is not an exemplification of the old proverb, 'What is every body's business is nobody's." Possibly indeed some have been troubled with ruminating on the matter, but came to the sage conclusion, "Asour fathers lived, so can we."

It is very clear however, that when the Public show the most indifference to a laudable object, we ought to double our diligence; and that our roads have been wretchedly neglected by many of those who have intelligence and influence enough to produce a better state of things, will not admit of much dispute. Look round the country now and see who has complied with the requisitions of the law in *throwing the loose stones out of the beaten track?* or in *cutting down the weeds that grow along its sides?* In many of our Road Districts, we might suppose from seeing no trace of care to keep them in decent trim, that the overseers had migrated with the birds of spring, to another climate.

It seems to be admitted by general usage that every male taxable inhabitant of the district, is qualified to discharge the duties of overseer. In what manner these are sometimes discharged, I have noticed in my previous numbers. Every man is also qualified to manage his farm *in some way;* but it can be no act of injustice to say that only a few manage their farms in the best way, —for there are some others that could manage them better. It is just so in regard to path masters. Some with the same labor can do three times as much good to the roads as others, and such ought to be employed by the district at some rate. If we suppose that every man in the district has an equal share of zeal with his neighbors, it will not do to believe that they stand equal in point of judgment; and as long as this indispensable requisite is wanting in the overseer, we must expect to have our taxes applied to little advantage. Rotation in office is a pretty thing to talk of when the outs have just gained a political victory; but it is a miserable principle to indroduce into Road Districts.

VIATOR.

For the Genesee Farmer.

It has often been said that we want more practical experiments in agriculture and less theorizing, —which is very true;—but, when erroneous conclusions are drawn from certain *facts*, it is but justice to the cause that they be pointed out.

"A Young Farmer" of Brockport comes forward *anonymously* and refers to an *anonymous* gentleman to prove that wheat turns to chess.—How would such testimony be received in court? He has not given one reason why the wheat changed, and calls on us tell why it did not.—For information on this point I would refer him to Gen. Far. vol. 2, p. 174, 269, 318, 334, 341, &c. In the case of Winans' field the evidence is equally vague. It does not appear that he knew Winans, as the indefinite article is not applied to acquaintances. Neither case rests on the authority of—any body. If he would "state at length the reasons upon which" his "belief is founded," he might perhaps bring forward some facts of a different nature.

He says, "Now I would ask, in the first place, if wheat will not produce *chess*, what became of the seed sowed on this piece of ground; and, secondly, what the chess sprung from? for it should be borne in mind, that this was new land, and this chess its first crop."

This strongly reminds me of the reasoning of some persons whom I have heard maintain that plants and animals are sometimes created in these latter days as they were at the beginning. For, say they—"I have known white clover to spring up immediately on newly cleared land, an hundred miles from any white clover, and if it was not created *from nothing* how did it get there?"—and "I have seen musquitoes produced from rain water caught in a clean vessel and kept closely covered—and if they were not created how did they get there?" I find it is much easier to ASK what chess sprung from than to PROVE that it is produced from wheat. J. C.

The Editor of the Sullivan County Herald, in copying the first number of our correspondent's remarks on the laws of this State, regulating Highways, bears testimony to their correctness as follows.

"The evils resulting from the present mode of expending labor on the public highways are clearly and truly depicted, and the remarks will apply to no county with more propriety than that of *Sullivan*."

FESTIVAL OF THE VINE DRESSERS.—The ancient festival of the vine-dressers was celebrated on the 8th of August, at Vevay, in Switzerland, a place well calculated for such an exhibition. Twenty-five thousand spectators were assembled from every part of the country. Elevated platforms, capable of accommodating several thousand persons were erected around an enclosure, into which the processsion marched at an early hour in the morning, under a salute of artillery. First in the procession came a band of soldiers in the ancient Swiss uniform; then a long array of shepherds and gardeners; next the cow-keepers with cattle, and the spring vine-dressers with their implements of husbandry; then the troop of Ceres, with the scythes and other instruments of their occupations; then the processsion of Bacchus, consisting of the autumn vine-dressers, with all the apparatus of their profession; and another detachment of Military closed the procession, each band of which was preceded by music. In the enclosure crowns and pruning-hooks were distributed as prizes to various individuals, previously designated to receive them. After this ceremony, the various corps sung their respective songs and exhibited their favorite dances, and partook of a banquet on the borders of Lake Leman. The celebrated Ranz des Vaches was sung with exquisite effect. Mr. Cooper, the novelist, was last year present at this festival, and has made it the subject of his new novel of 'The Headsman.'

Free Trade.—Genesee and Ohio flour are now selling in considerable parcels for the supply of the wheat-growing territory at the South. Shipments are making to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington City and other places. This is partly to make assortments and gratify various tastes, and partly at this time on account of the misfortune of a poor crop at the South; poor, both in quality and quantity. On the other hand the city of N. York feeds chiefly on Southern flour,—that being almost exclusively used by the bakers, because it receives more water and makes a more showy loaf.—Southern and Western flour have each properties peculiar to themselves, and so divide the favor of the community. The Ohio flour, which within a year or two has commenced coming freely to our market, has in part the distinctive qualities of the other two, and is obtaining favor.—*Jour. of Com.*

Rochester Prices Current.

Wheat, per bu.	88	Apples,	22a25
Flour, per brl.	5 00	Lard, cwt.	8 00
Pork, mess, brl.	16 00	Cheese do	5a7 00
do prime do	13 00	Butter	12½a15
Beef per cwt.	2a3 00	Hams do	8a9 00
Oats,	28	Pot Ash, cwt.	3 50
Corn,	38	Peals,	3 75a4 00
Rye,	62	Hides, cwt.	5 00
Barley,	50a56	Sole Leather,	19a22 00
Hay, per ton,	10a11 00	Harness do	25 00
Grass Seed,	1 25	Upper p side,	drs'd 2 25
Potatoes,	19	Bundle do-	300a350

For the Genesee Farmer.

Objections to the Laws of New-York, regulating Highways—No. IV.

This number will close what I have to say at present, on the subject of these essays. It is believed, enough has been said already to convince reasonable minds, that our present system of road laws, has lived long enough, and perpetrated mischief enough; that now its measure of iniquity is full, and that it ought not to live any longer. Yet more remains to be said; and if a volume were to be written, the subject would not be exhausted.

It has been remarked, in one of the preceding essays, that our road laws operate as a veto against doing any thing, or causing any thing to be done, in the winter, for the furtherance of highway work. Such is the fact; and as this forms one of the principal objections to the system, it merits further illustration. For a large portion of the work, necessary to be done, in making roads and bridges, and keeping them in repair, the winter affords peculiar facilities. This is the best time to prepare and collect materials for building bridges, and keeping them in repair. It is, generally, the best time to collect stones and gravel, which are often needed, and frequently in large quantities, to fill up, and consolidate, low and wet places on the roads. In the winter, teams are strong to labor, and at that season, they can be better spared for services on the roads,than at any other. That the winter, a season affording peculiar facilities for many operations on the roads, a season too when time is of much less value to the agricultural population, than it is in the spring and summer months, should be wholly lost, in regard to highway work, tells of *something wrong*. Yet such is the fact. The winter, which ought to sustain the chief burden of highway work, is exonerated from it altogether; and the whole burden falls upon that season of the year, when time is most valuable for other purposes.

The road laws which form the subject of my complaint, are furthermore objectionable, because they stand opposed to any thing like system, in the management of road concerns. System,a due regard to which is so essential to success, in every thing else, is *here* necessarily excluded. How can it be otherwise? As,under the present laws, commissioners of highways are elected for only one year, it may happen, and it frequently does happen, that the whole board is changed at once. What ever may have been the prospective views and calculations of former commissioners, these now become prostrate, because the business has passed into other hands. It happens frequently, that the plans of one set of commissioners, although perhaps wise and judicious, are, by another, entirely set aside, and other plans adopted. What has been done, and perhaps well done, by one set of commissioners, is by another frequently undone. Thus much loss is sustained; thus too confusion and strife are often produced in neighborhoods.

The same remarks apply to the case of pathmasters. It has been observed that pathmasters are often destitute of calculating talents, that many of them are ignorant men, yet wise in their own conceit. Thence it happens frequently, that one pathmaster, in the plenitude of his own wisdom, judges it expedient to undo what has been well done by his predecessor. And, as he is clothed with power almost omnipotent, he has only to promulgate his decree—the work must be done. I can assure my fellow citizens, that I have more than once seen disastrous management of the kind now complained of. I have seen upstart pathmasters subvert the wise plans of their predecessors, and undo what had been well done, and sometimes what it had required years to do.

I shall mention one, and only one more objection to the road laws. I would pass this in silence, as I must many others, were it not, in my opinion, too important to be thus disposed of. The system of law now in use, makes no provision, neither does it offer any inducements, for the exercise of such timely care and watchfulness on roads, as are necessary to prevent damages. Efforts to prevent evil of any sort, are usually more availing, than such as are intended to operate merely as curatives. The principle is known and acted upon by all prudent individuals, and public bodies. There is scarcely any other interest, private or public, in relation to which the preventive policy is so necessary, and to which it can apply so advantageously, as that of keeping in repair roads and bridges. Yet, as things are managed under the existing laws, nothing of this is practiced.

Pathmasters usually cause the whole, or nearly the whole work, assessed in their districts for the season, to be performed in a few days. After that, the roads are abandonded to the elements, and to the agency of whatever other causes may combine to put them out of repair. Pathmasters exercise no farther oversight upon the roads.—The law neither compels them, nor offers them inducements to do it. Thus it frequently happens, that for the want of a few minutes, or a few hours timely care, damages are done to roads, which it will require days, and perhaps weeks, to repair. These are no rare occurrences. They always happen, every season, and in every district, to a greater or lesser extent. Often for the want of a little care, to give the water a suitable direction, roads lying on declivities, are exceedingly damaged. The expense of repairing them is an unnecessary tax; but this is not the only evil, nor always the greatest. The roads themselves, in consequence of damages thus sustained are uncomfortable,and unsafe for passage, through the season.

I have finished what I have to say, as an accuser of the road laws. And, if I have not convicted them of such impotence and incongruity, as render them utterly unfit for the place they occupy, I have failed of my object.

Since I have, with a view to extermination, commenced a warfare against the existing road laws of the State, it will, perhaps be required of me to propose a substitute. In order to do this, as the number I am now closing, is sufficiently protracted, it will be necessary, contrary to my intention, to add a 5th number. D. B.

Onondaga County, Oct. 4th, 1833.

Gen. Shelby, of Lexington, Ky., sold lately a flock of 160 mules, raised on his plantation, for $11,840, cash in hand; and fourteen of them were purchased for a gentleman at Cuba, for $136 each.

AN ADDRESS

Delivered at the annual meeting of the Wheatland Agricultural Society, Oct. 12, 1833, *by* N. Goodsell.

Gentlemen—After the toils of summer are past, and the common avocations of the agriculturist favoring, it has been customary in most civilized countries, for farmers to set apart a day, on which to meet together, for the purpose of conversing upon subjects immediately connected with their occupations, for the encouragement of social intercourse, and an exchange of those civilities which distinguish between refinement and barbarity.

At such times, on such occasions, all party feelings ought to be laid aside, and the general maxim, that the plough knows no politics, should be universally acknowledged.

Whether discussions may be brought up at such times with regard to the national policy of protecting our own industry, or domestic manufactures, should be conversed upon with liberality, always remembering that a man's opinion with regard to religion, or politics, is his individual property, as much as his ox, or his horse, neither of which we have any right to take from him, without his consent.

On an occasion like the present, it would be improper to waste time, by attempting to give a particular history of the rise and progress of agriculture, among the different nations, or to attempt to describe the manner in which it is conducted at this time in countries where the soil or climate may be altogether different from our own.

Two places cannot be located in the same latitude and longitude, and it is equally impossible to find two countries where the same course of cropping and cultivation would prove equally successfull.

We talk of agriculture as a science—it is so, but unlike many others, must be carried in conformity with all attendant circumstances. Mathematical problems may be solved by figures, whose properties are arbitrary, and are the same in all places, but agricultural arithmetic is different; judgment, strengthened by close and constant observation, alone can solve what is problematical, and experiment must be adduced as proof.

To strengthen the judgment, by storing up in the memory such facts as come under our own observations, or are related by those who are entitled to confidence, should be the costant care of every agriculturist.

It has fallen to our lot to live at a time when scientific information is more generally diffused, than it was in ages which have preceded us. He that will, may read, and such exertions are now made for the spread of information, that it is literally brought home to every man's door, at so cheap a rate, that it is within the means of the most humble individual.

Ignorance is no longer a matter of necessity, but of choice. It needs but a desire to be informed, and it is accomplished, with so much ease, that in a country like ours, to be ignorant in matters appertaining to agriculture, is inexcusable.

Great and learned men of different countries, have within the last thirty years, turned their attention to those branches of study, which have been found to contribute most to the progress of agriculture, and domestic arts, and so far have our public schools been revolutionised,that studies which are found more useful in common life, are taking the place of those which were only found beneficial to professional men, serving them merely as certificates of collegiate education. Among all the sciences which have been so much improved of late, none have done more towards enabling the farmer to take advantage of those circumstances with which he is surrounded, than chimistry. None have done more towards dispelling the clouds of superstition and prejudice, which has so long hung over agriculture, and shed their blasting influence upon the labors of the husbandman.

Farmers have discovered that an increase of knowledge of matter, and the laws which govern it, is with them an increase of power, and an acquaintance with the laws of chimical affinity, points out to them the effect which will be produc-

ed when different particles of matter are brought in contact with each other.

This knowledge is the foundation of the theory of renovating lands by the application of different substances, which acts as stimulants to plants growing in such soils. By chimical analysis the component parts of vegetables have been discovered, as well as those of soils, which has pointed out the necessity of selecting soils for different crops, which contain the elementary substances of which they are composed, or of adding that which will produce them in the form of manures.

It has also detected the fallacy of laying down any fixed rules to be applied in all cases, under different circumstances, and taught them that what was beneficial in one case, might not prove so in another. By the aid of chimistry we are taught that carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen constitute the greatest portion of plants, but these are not alway present in the same proportions, neither is it certain, that they are taken into the plants, in an uncombined state.

Formerly it was a received opinion that plants derived all their nourishment from the soil, but it is now well established that a very great proportion of their carbonaceous matter, is received directly from the atmosphere.

Common observation teaches us that light, and heat, are indespensable agents in the process of vegetation, and so far as regards that portion of food which plants receive by their roots, water is the proper solvent for preparing it for their reception.

Although it is necessary that soils should contain a certain quantity of the constituent parts of plants, yet any of these may be so far in excess, as entirely to defeat the object of cultivation. This is exemplified in many of our swamp lands, where both water and carbonaceous matter are in excess, and even when the latter is removed, it requires some better conductor of heat than vegetable matter before it can be cropped to advantage.

On the other hand soils composed wholly of silicious matter, absorb heat with such rapidity as often to destroy plants growing upon them. Hence the importance of mixing sand with vegetable mold, to regulate the heat, and vice versa.

Some crops require that there should be present in the soil small quantities of lime, or clay, to insure their perfection. Where these do not abound in nature, they must be supplied by art, or the cultivation of such crops as require them, must be abandoned.

Although agricultural chimistry is of modern introduction, and is still thought by many to be too profound for common application, yet it should be remembered, that every farmer is a practical, agricultural chimist, whether he is willing to accept the title or whether he rejects it. His farm is his laboratory, and he should make himself particularly acquainted with all the operations necessary to render it in the highest degree productive, whether this involves him in inquiries that are altogether new to him, or whether it leads him to examine theories which he has considered as permanently established.

The study of the functions of vegetables, or as it is more generally termed, Vegetable Physiology, is of the highest importance to farmers. Agricultural chimistry will explain the constituent parts of plants, but that which refers to their germination, nutriment, digestion, growth, and sexual impregnation, is denominated Vegetable Physiology.

By attending to the process of germination of seeds, and laws by which it is governed, so far as man is capable of investigating them, the farmer will derive much benefit. He will be prepared for selecting his seeds in such a manner as to prevent disappointment, and for keeping them in situations most favorable to the preservation of their powers of germination, and for the regulation of moisture, heat, and light, necessary for their development.

Attention to the nutriment, digestion, and growth of plants, will enable him to discover, what food is necessary for plants, and at what period of their growth they require the greatest quantity, and what substances prove injurious or destructive to them, either depriving them of their food, or by obstructing the circulation of their juices after they have been received into the proper vessels for conducting them. The sexual impregnation of plants, is a subject which has of late years, been much attended to by some of our most learned agriculturists. In this particular branch of agriculture, the system of Botany, as laid down by Linneus, has done incalculable service. It has rendered the propagation of plants, as plain and simple as that of animals, and subject to the general rules. It has forever dispersed the clouds of superstition and prejudice which had so long hung over this part of vegetable economy, and fixed it upon such principles, that the success attending may be depended upon with the same certainty as with animals. The doctrine of the transmutation of plants is now looked upon as fabulous as that of the transmutation of animals; the rememberance of either serving only to remind us of the ignorance of ages past.

Another subject which we would recommend to the attention of farmers is that of Vegetable Pathology, or the diseases of plants. Plants, like animals, are subject to the diseases which affect their growth. They are also liable to be affected by external injuries, as animals, but it may not always be as easy to distinguish between external injuries and diseases of plants as it is with animals. In some instances perhaps diseases may be produced by injury in either. When the regular circulation is obstructed, plants, or animals, may be said to be diseased, whether it is caused by a vitiated state of the juices, or by what would more commonly be denominated, mechanical obstruction.

In speaking of diseases of animals, we naturally infer that an idea of pain is intended to be communicated; but it must be understood differently when we speak of the diseases of plants. Sensibility is confined to animals, but irritability and contractibility are common with vegetables. I am aware that in speaking of the diseases of plants at this time I shall by many be considered rather visionary, but my own observation for years past, has convinced me, that it is as important to a farmer to be acquainted with the one as the other. Both plants and animals administer to our comfort, and both are liable to be destroyed by disease.

In speaking of external injuries of plants, I would particularly call the attention of farmers to those usually denominated *Blights*, *Mildew* and *Rust*. Although here spoken of in connection with disease, these I consider as mere noxious weeds growing upon the surface of other plants, drawing their nourishment from those which support them. The roots of such plants penetrate the pores of the plants on which they grow, and not only draw their own nourishment from them, but obstruct the natural circulation of the juices of the plant. Whether we look upon these as external injuries, or diseases of plants on them, it is certain that they often increase to that extent as to blast the fondest hopes of the husbandman.

Vulgar prejudice has long enrolled the increase of these parasitic plants, as particular signals of God's displeasure towards sinful man, and prayers were formerly substituted for personal exertions, to effect their removal. Thorns and Thistles were looked upon much in the same light, but now their increase is considered as one of the operations of nature, and we find that by perseverance, the good husbandman is so far able to overcome them, that the punishment is light.

The inimitable poet, Cowper, seemed to have entertained the opinion that mildew was a special punishment reserved in store for those who led an atheist life; for in speaking on that subject he said, when God proclaimed his hot displeasure against them, "He called for famine, and the meager fiend blew mildew from between his shriveled lips and tainted the Golden Ear"—but we do not find the injury confined to any particular class of people, and are led to believe that all are subject alike to the annoyance.

The Druids entertained prejudices equally ridiculous concerning the mistletoe, a parasitic plant growing upon trees, and such was their reverence for it, that they would allow it to grow upon their choicest trees, until it destroyed them, rather than remove it.

With plants, as with animals, neither will succeed well while supporting upon the surface innumerable smaller plants or animals which draw their nourishment from the body which supports them. Plants which grow upon the surface of others are denominated Parasitic, and demand more attention from the farmers than they are receiving at this time. Considering these as noxious weeds, every possible means for their destruction should be resorted to.

One of the most injurious of this class of plants to the cause of agriculture in this section, is the rust, which often makes its appearance upon wheat. I am of opinion that much of the injury which is so often experienced from the rapid increase of rust, may be prevented by a judicious course of croping.

Rust is a very minute, regular organized plant of the Cryptogamous Class.

It is well known that many of the different varieties of this class of plants are found growing upon decomposing vegetable matter, such as the trunks of trees, when partially rotted, heaps of manure, &c., each variety seeming almost peculiar to certain substances. Thus mushrooms are said to grow luxuriantly in old horse droppings, while smaller varieties spring up in innumerable quantities about heaps of stable manure which has been subject to a partial fermentation. When such manures are spread on wheat fields in autumn, and mixed with the soil, they are most sure to propagate the plant called rust, to that extent as often to destroy the wheat crop entirely. I mention this subject in order to call the attention of farmers to it, for the improper application of manure, although it often produces a luxuriant growth, yet it is evident that in many instances it does material injury. It may be thought perhaps rather a digression from the common track on such an occasion to be thus particular, in matters relating to our wheat crops. My opinion is, that this subject is equal in importance to all others which can be brought before you. It is the success which has placed you, farmers, on that proud eminence which you now occupy. We may talk to you about Corn, Barley, Oats, Peas and Potatoes, and ask you what crop you have found most profitable? your answer will be WHEAT. Ask you how you have been enabled to pay for your lands, and supply your families with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life? your answer will be, by raising WHEAT. Ask you what crops you can cultivate, that will improve the quality of your soil, and yet afford you an ample compensation for your labor and capital? your answer will be WHEAT; and even ask you where you live? and you will reply, in the land-of-Wheat. We are all convinced that a rotation of crops is necessary in order to produce the greatest possible net profit from the capital and labor employed in agriculture; and that in different parts of our country the difference in soil, climate, markets, and all attendant circumstances, must vary that rotation, but with us every crop must be considered secondary when compared with wheat. To keep our lands in the best possible condition for this crop by freeing them from all noxious weeds, and improving them with preparatory crops, should be the constant care of each individual.

With regard to the cultivation of wheat, I can offer little that would be instructive to you, farmers, on that subject. "By your fruits you are known," not only at home but abroad. Commencing with a soil which by nature was rather forbidding, by a judicious course of tillage you have increased its fertility to that extent, that you may proudly stand forth, and challenge the world to point a corresponding extent of country, where capital invested in agricultural pursuits gives a like profit with your own.

I would not be understood to say, that you have arrived at that state of perfection, that all attempts at improvement will be useless, but on the contrary would recommend a continuation of the same course of observations and experiments which have enabled you to gain your present standing among the agriculturists of our country.

We know it is common for most men when removed from an old to a new country, to refer back to the land of their nativity for examples, for precedents, in most matters, connected with the arts or sciences. This appears to be a law founded on filial respect and love of the land which gave us birth, which we cannot at once transfer to the land of our adoption; but can any of you point back to the land of your nativity and say, "there the capital employed in agriculture was more profitable than our own?" can you say their general course of croping would be preferable to what you now pursue? No—you are a people collected from the different parts of the world, who have brought with you the theory and practice of every agricultural nation in Christendom, and being left to the free exercise of your own judgments, you have already adopted what by your own experience you have found profitable, and rejected practices which were only sanctioned by tradition, without regard to nation or country where they originated. We as a people have undoubtedly derived much benefit from the difference of our origin, and more from the freedom with which we have pursued our own inclination which has created with us a versatility of talent unknown among any other people. This has induced us to adopt different practices according to the circumstances with which we have been surrounded, self interest always prompting us to pursue what we considered most to our present advantage.

Thus far your prosperity has been almost unparalleled, but that which is in store for you, or for succeeding generations, is hid from you by an impenetrable veil, which hangs between you and futurity. National calamities do not always fall upon the generations which cause them, neither is prosperity hereditary with any family or people; and we often are reminded that fortune like a wheel is subject to revolutions.

It has been remarked with regard to individuals, that prosperity destroys more than adversity. Although this is somewhat paradoxical, the moral intended to be drawn from it, when applied to nations or individuals, has its force. It often happens that the inhabitants of those countries, where the necessaries of life are obtained with least exertions, become poor, compared with those which demand constant and unremitted exertions.

Neither body or mind gain strength by a continued state of inactivity, and hence we see those nations to which nature has been the most bountiful in supplying them with the necessaries of life, are often apt to relax into a state of inactivity, until they become enfeebled both in body and mind to that degree, that they fall an easy prey to those who have grown up in climates more austere, where the demands of nature require of them those exertions, which cause superiority both for bodily exercise and intellectual capacity.

If there is any one evil that threatens this favorable section of our country, it is the facility with which property is acquired, or rather the ease with which *all* the necessaries and *most* of the luxuries of life are obtained. Pardon me for calling this portentious of evil, but there is so close a connection between luxury and ease, and idleness and vice, that it is difficult to speak of the former without being reminded of the latter.

I do not fear that the present population of this section of our country, who have already attained to the meridian of life, who have established their habits of industry, temperance and economy, will fall a prey to luxury and dissipation; but I think that most of you will allow, that in countries like this, such habits are more likely to be introduced than in those where the sterility of the soil, or the inclemency of the climate, demand the most rigid application of time and economy to procure even a scanty supply of the necessaries of life.

Under such circumstances the education of your children must be of vital consequence, not only as regards your own happiness and theirs, but on their habits will depend the future prosperity of our country.

Hitherto, farmers, you have enjoyed an almost uninterrupted course of prosperity since the first settlement of this country. It is impossible, according to the common course of things, that this should always be the case, as business, when left unshackled, will find its proper level, so you must calculate that yours will be reduced to that of the surrounding country. It has been observed that your investments give a greater net profit than that of any other section of our country. If so what does it argue? It clearly proves that you made a judicious selection, but the original cost of your lands should have no bearing upon its present valuation. I fear that you do not value your lands as you should do. There can be no possible injury in valuing them too high, but by under-valuing them you may subject yourselves to an irreparable loss. Lands should be valued according to the net profit they are capable of producing. By this valuation it will be found that you do not prize your possessions and privilege as you should. Unless there is an alteration in this respect, you may be induced to part with your farms at a price which you may afterwards repent of, when it will be too late for you to recover them.

I do not wish to flatter you by telling you that you are rich, but I earnestly entreat of you not to dispose of your possessions until you have compared them with those of other sections of our country both with regard to price and productiveness.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune;" you, gentlemen, are now enjoying the full tide of agricultural prosperity. Do not relax, nor let it pass by unimproved. You know not how soon the sun of your property may be overcast. The murrain may destroy your cattle, the blight, the mildew, or the rust, may come and cut off your fondest hopes of gain. Say not to yourselves, "we have much goods laid up in store for many years, therefore we will take our ease"—but be up and doing while this day of prosperity lasts, that you may be prepared for the night of adversity.

In the morning of life let Industry and Frugality be your motto; these will conduct you to that competency which will enable you, during the meridian of your usefulness, to cultivate all the social virtues which tend to adorn society and render life desirable; then in the evening of your days, with reflections upon a well spent life, may each of you have the satisfaction of setting under your own vine and Fig-tree, and none to molest or make you afraid.

From the New-England Farmer.

FRUIT TREES.

The following observations are prefatory to an abridged Descriptive Catalogue of the fruit trees in the collection of J. B. Van Mons, a celebrated cultivator of fruit trees in Belgium, Europe. We were favored with the manuscript by R. Manning, Esq. of Salem, Mass. for whom it was translated from the French by Miss Elizabeth C. Hathorne, of that place. We think the remarks cannot but prove useful to all persons engaged in the raising of fruits, and especially to those who wish to create or introduce new and improved varieties of apples, pears, &c.

TRANSLATION.

Being unwilling to leave my correspondents in ignorance of the fruit trees which I have sent them, designated by numbers alone, I have caused the materials for this catalogue to be collected during a severe illness. There may be omissions in it, but there are no errors; and the repetitions refer to the parent stocks, and to their grafts, but are not unnecessarily employed.

In so vast an establishment, containing not less than 86,000 trees, it was impossible to inscribe at length on tickets the names of all the fruits of which we distributed grafts; and we found it at once more simple and more expeditious to mark on a slip of paper the number attached to the tree, and to point out afterwards the variety to which the number belonged.

We attached a number in lead, suspended by a wire of the same metal, to every tree and graft in the garden, as well as to every Sauvageon (ungrafted tree, raised from seed,) from which we gathered fruit, and we noted in catalogues the names or the qualities of the fruits to which these numbers referred. We have thought it expedient to have those catalogues printed.

There are in the first series many numbers to which no descriptions are annexed, because they are occupied by old varieties generally known. The vacant numbers in the second and third series belong to new varieties which have not answered the expectations formed respecting them. Some vacancies are also left by duplicates and triplicates of the same variety, which we had received under the same names.

We have, as far as possible, given the names of the authors of the fruits. By its patrons, signifies that it was found by the cultivator whose name it bears. By ourselves, that it is the result of our endeavors. The articles designated by numbers alone, are necessarily products of our culture.

I have added in my catalogues the approximative forms of my new fruits, though nothing can be more uncertain than this characteristic, for the form of a pear varies during 12 or 15 years before it is definitively fixed; and there are some which never attain a fixed form, as the Bon Chretien d'hiver, the Beurre Rance, &c. I have compared them to known varieties. I might here compare them to the wild fruits of the same species, (sous especes des bois,) but in countries where the kind does not grow spontaneously, there would have been no point of comparison.

We admit into this catalogue only the species which we have been able to send to our correspondents, under the form of grafts, such as the pear, apple, plum and cherry tree. We have, however, discovered a method of conveying under the same form the peach and the apricot tree. It consists in grafting them on the summit, or on the bourgeons (bud's eyes) of the plum tree, and sending the grafted branch before or after the development of the eye, to be gratted *en feute* (or cleft or slit-grafting) on another plum tree. We have never yet found this method to fail.

There are many numbers which have not yet received names, because we thought it right to name only the varieties, which in our judgment merited the title of *tres a propager* (eminently worthy to be propagated,) which expresses the highest excellence that a fruit can attain, and requires it to be superior to a St. Germain, a Beurre Gris, a Chaumentelle, a Colmar, a Cressane, &c. Respect to the persons to whom we offer the homage of our fortunate acquisitions by bestowing their names upon the fruits, exacts from us this extreme reserve.

This distinction between fruits *a propager* (to be propagated) and those *tres a propager*, is solely for ourselves, who are so rich in this last quality of fruits, which unites elegance of form, and amplitude of size, to the utmost delicacy of flesh and of juice, while we are so poor in subjects for grafting. The words excellent, exquisite, delicious, annexed to a great number of our new fruits, are equivalent to the declaration that they are as good as the best old varieties.

In another position than that in which we are placed, we might enlarge on the origin, the form, the qualities, I will say the defects, the epoch of maturity, and other particulars of the fruits bearing names. In the next supplement, if it be ever published, we may, perhaps, revert to these details; but at present I can only cause to be transcribed the judgments pronounced upon each variety, and consigned to my notes.

It may be asked, how we have been able to obtain from our seed-plots so many fruits, so extraordinary in all respects? We answer that our method has been to renew incessantly the old varieties, acknowledged as exquisite. By renewing we mean planting always the kernels and stones of the last produced, regenerating thus from father to son. We said to ourselves once for all, that the more a species, being propagated from seed, and at the same time by shoots or suckers, is removed by being repeatedly sown from a state of nature, the more it must approach a state of art. We have since acted in conformity to this principle, and already at the third renewing, the fruit of the peach and the apricot tree is no longer of ordinary merit, and at its fourth sowing the apple is reproduced con-

stantly exquisite. This has not been the case with the pear tree, which still produces ordinary fruit, though no longer bad. But for this characteristic of the pear, and especially that of the incessant variation of its form, pomological researches would be already without an object,and the study of fruits would consist only in a dry acquisition of names.

Our seed plots were differently treated according to the species. The pear trees were planted in squares, and the apple trees were placed in one of the corners of the garden: these species were never planted together. The peach and apricot trees, sown confusedly, were removed only to be placed where they were to remain. The growth of all was restrained by pruning till the moment of permanently placing them; and at transplantation the branches were slightly drawn together, and the roots forcibly so, in order to make the latter subdivide, which causes the tree to bear early. After the transplantation they were not touched. In the second year we examined the pear trees, leaving only those of good appearance, and choosing the others to graft upon. This grafting could not be performed without removal, because the growth of the sauvageons would immeasurably outstrip that of the grafted trees. We therefore raised the trees, just before the frosts, and placed them *en jauge* (in casks or barrels,) in order to graft them by copulation,and out of the earth at the end of February; or we grafted them in this manner before the beginning of winter. These grafts have endured with perfect safety the severity of the past winter. This method is preferable to every other for the pear tree and the apple tree. The suffering, which in this case is common to the tree and the graft, secures its taking and determines an equal force of development. It might be called *the graft on one's knee*, or *the graft at the corner of the fire.* It is the only one which should be practiced, except *en feute* (slit cleft) for the paradise and the quince tree, of which every piece of a trunk, branch or root only, two or three inches long and two or three lines thick, may be made useful as a subject.

This selection of subjects for grafting does not prevent our trees from being so near each other as to shoot into the air, like arrows, and to resemble Italian poplars rather than ordinary pear trees; they were not forced by the knife to take a direction contrary to nature; and these trees, so high, so straight, with branches so regular, and unapproached by any insect, were every year covered with fruit from the summit to the foot. The great art in giving to a tree *au vent* (not trained in any particular shape) a regular form in maintaining the equilibrium between its branches, is to make it take from its birth a right direction by attaching to it a proper support.

The new fruits have over the old the advantage of yielding a rich and constant crop, and of exemption from falling off and from alteration. They are less liable to any malady.

When a peach tree is raised from the stone and *au vent*, it is as unnecessary to dispoil it of its branches as to thin it of fruit; in the third year it puts forth only short branches, which bear without intermission, and whatever be the number of the fruits, the smallest is not less savory than the largest; the flesh of the peaches of seed plots remaining long transparent and greenish. This is also the case with the nectarine, whose fruit *au vent* may be preserved from insects.

I was at first in the habit of placing a graft of the most distinguished of my sauvageons on a lateral branch of a mature tree; but I have always observed that this branch and the parent stock began to bear the same year, so that while the trees were mutilated nothing was gained in precocity of crop.

It will be perceived that in our last catalogues, the number of fruits inscribed *excellent* is much more considerable than in the first: this proceeds in part, it is true, from our more extended cultivation, but also from the circumstance that in proportion as we advance in renewing the varieties, the number of distinguished fruits is multiplied.

We also remark, that the more the fruits are renewed, the fewer early varieties do we obtain; for example, in the last year few of our apples and pears of the first crop ripened before winter; and even at this moment (March) I have a great number which are not ripe, and which ripen successively as they advance in merit. It is true, that in the selection of sauvageons, we remove all the pear trees that are without thorns and with stout branches and large leaves, as these are signs of precocity, and all the apple trees whose appearance resembles too much that of the early varieties.

It will be observed that we have principally directed our endeavors to the improvement of pears. This was natural, because the pear has not hitherto been reproduced identically, but under astonishing deviations, which have hardly permitted comparisons. We have, in our thousands of results, obtained forms which resembled each other as to the fruits, but the appearance of the tree, the wood, the foliage, were entirely different; and when two trees had some resemblance in appearance, wood and foliage, the fruit was totally distinct. The following was my mode of passing judgment upon the varieties. I invited to dinner a friend, whose taste in fruits was exquisite, and we tasted together; then I made my two gardeners taste; we discussed for a moment the merit of the fruit, and I consigned the judgments to my notes, with the very expressions which are found in the catalogue. As fruit whose period of maturity is not yet known must be gathered at different times, and at intervals of ten days, we had never less than two hundred sorts to taste. The number attached to the tree was transcribed upon each fruit. Every variety judged very good, and of the highest quality, was afterwards gathered and distributed to connoisseurs, on condition of returning the stones and the kernels: we have never sent a good new fruit to the market; we choose to allow it to rot in order to preserve the seed, rather than to sell it at a high price.

I was obliged to quit Brussels when almost all my sauvageons of the fourth and fifth renewing were about to bear; an object of public utility claimed the ground which my establishment occupied. I shall, perhaps, be compelled to leave my new gardens when nearly all my sauvageons of the sixth and seventh renewing are covered with flower-buds. I see that the more the renewings are multiplied, the earlier the sauvageons begin to bear: a great many of my pear trees of three and four years old will produce this year.

In the inevitable disorder attendant on the destruction of an immense cultivation, effected during the severity of winter, it was impossible not to lose some varieties, though we took grafts of all the most precious, and though of these grafts, placed double and in April and May on trees out of the earth and half dry, very few perished. To gather grafts and to abandon the trees was all that we could do at such a moment, and when we could ourselves be present only for a day and a half in the week. We are consequently obliged to request our correspondents to return us grafts of those lost varieties which are in their possession.

From the Lenox Argus.

BERKSHIRE REPORT ON ANIMALS.

It is a subject of regret to the committees on animals, that the unfavorable state of the weather, in the morning, prevented them from bestowing that time and particular attention to the beautiful exhibition of animals, which has never been excelled in former years, which they would have otherwise desired. The duties of this committee are at all times arduous, and in deciding upon the merits of so many cattle, in reference to their age, shape, pedigree, capacity of labor, and of carrying beef, there is but little time afforded to make those discriminations, necessary to a judicious decision, or even to satisfy their own judgments, where there are such slight shades of difference, among so large a number of excellent cattle. The Committee being thus called upon, promptly to decide in relation to the animals offered for Premiums, have endeavored to discharge that duty, with impartiality, and they console themselves with the reflection, that whatever error in judgment they may have committed, the intelligent and patriotic Farmers of Berkshire, will have their minds directed more to the general improvement of cattle of every description, than to the success of individuals in obtaining premiums. Whether the numbers or the excellence of cattle exhibited be taken into consideration, there is ample proof afforded of the untiring zeal and perseverance of the citizens of this county, in making the best selections of stock and improving them to the greatest advantage. When it is considered that in the agricultural pursuits of this part of the county, how much of the success and wealth of the farmer, depends upon his stock of cattle, the committee feel that they cannot too strongly urge upon their fellow citizens the importance of the subject. It is apparent that a deep interest is felt in the county upon the subject, when it is noticed that a large number of cattle at the present exhibition, were brought from extreme parts of the county, at the sacrifice of much time and expense, affording the best evidence that all local prejudices, in relation to the liberal and patriotic efforts of this society, have ceased to exist. Even the citizens of our sister States have done us the honor, by gratuitous exhibitions of stock, to encourage our exertions, and to advance the objects of the Society and the interests of the country. The committee beg leave to name Caleb N. Bement, Esq. of Albany as deserving the thanks of the Society for his interesting exhibition of two imported cows and a bull, of the short-horned or Durham breed. They are also much indebted to Mr. Thomas Dunn, of Albany, for his exhibition of a buck and lamb of the New Leicester breed. It is presumed that this breed of Sheep is entirely new to most of the farmers of the country, and it is well worthy of their consideration, whether their flocks may not be greatly improved by them; particularly as it regards the quantity of the fleece, and the size of the sheep. Mr. Bates, also, of Vermont, exhibited to the Society a fine horse, which was much admired for his beauty and excellence.

The committee with great pleasure viewed several fine animals from the excellent stock of cattle, belonging to the Hon. Henry W. Dwight, to whose patriotic and spirited exertions, the agricultural community is so largely indebted, for a steady and progressive improvement of stock in the county.

The number of working cattle and particularly of three year old steers, exhibited for premiums was very large and the committee do not hesitate to say, that they have never been excelled at any former period. A yoke of oxen not entitled to be offered premium was exhibited by Hosea Merrill, Jr. which deserves the particular notice of the Society, as excelling in many points most of the cattle exhibited. The Committee regret that in this brief report, they are unable particularly to notice very many animals, which although unsuccessful in obtaining premiums, would in the opinion of the committee, at almost any former anniversary of the Society, have been entitled to the first premiums. A superior cow and calf was exhibited by Mr. Henry Root, of Pittsfield; also several fine animals by Mr. Bushrod Buck of Lanesborough, among which were a yoke of two year old steers, which not being under the yoke, escaped the notice of the committee in their examinations for premiums. A number of very superior cows were offered for premiums. One by Mr. Thomas Cason and one by Mr. Ezekiel R. Colt, which for excellence it is presumed can be surpassed by few cows in the country. Many other cows were exhibited which do credit to their owners. Upon the whole, the committee congratulate the farmers of Berkshire, in expressing their sincere conviction, that there is a steady and progressive improvement in the stock of the county, and that under the blessing of Heaven, and the free and happy institutions of our prosperous country, there is not a point of excellence in their agricultural pursuits to which they may not attain.

Deaf and Dumb.—One in 1585 of the population of France is deaf and dumb; in Russia, one in 1548; in the U. S. one in 1537.

From the New England Farmer

A Little Wife and Cow wanted.—The following sublime poetic effusion is from the "Middlesex Gazette," printed at Middletown, Conn :—

I WOULD WISH,

If Heaven the grateful liberty would give
That I might choose my method how to live;
Near some fair town I'd have a small retreat,
Built uniformly, but not idly great;
A little garden just before the door
And one behind more ample than before;
A little field, wherein a cow might stay;
A little wife, with temper kind and free;
Courteous to all, but most of all to me.
One that would choose but little for to roam,
Because a woman looks the best at home.
Business I'd have sufficient for to find
Employment for the body and the mind.
Open to all should be my purse and door,
No one more welcome than the old and poor.

From the American Orchardist.

GATHERING AND PRESERVING FRUIT.

Various theories have been offered for preserving apples in a sound state for winter use or for distant voyages. Some have proposed gathering the fruit before it is ripe and drying it on floors before it is put up: this has been tried; apples lose their sprightly flavor, and keep no better than by some less troublesome modes. Dr. Noah Webster has recommended that they should be put down between layers of sand that has been dried by the heat of the summer. This is without doubt an excellent mode, as it excludes the air and absorbs the moisture, and must be useful when apples are shipped to a warm climate. But apples thus preserved are liable to imbibe an earthy taste.

Chopped straw has also been highly recommended to be placed between layers of fruit; but I have noticed that the straw, from the perspiration it imbibes, becomes musty, and may do more hurt than good. When apples are to be exported, it has been recommended that each be separately wrapped in coarse paper, in the manner oranges and lemons are put up. This is without doubt an excellent mode. And Mr. Loudon has recommended that apples destined for Europe should be packed between layers of grain.

Great quantities of winter fruit are raised in the vicinity of Boston and put up for the winter use, for the market and for exportation. The following is the mode almost universaly adopted by the most experienced. And by this mode the apples under very favorable circumstances are frequently preserved in a sound state, or not one in fifty defective, for a period of seven or eight months. The fruit is suffered to hang on the tree to as late a period as possible in October, or till hard frosts have loosened the stalk, and they are in danger of being blown by high winds; such as have already fallen are carefully gathered and inspected, and the best are put up for early winter use. They are carefully gathered from the tree by hand, and are carefully laid in baskets. New, tight, well seasoned flour barrels from the bakers, are usually preferred; the barrels being quite filled are gently shaken and the head is gently pressed down to its place and secured. It is observed that this pressure never causes them to rot next the head, and is necessary, as they are never allowed to rattle in moving. No soft straw or shavings are admitted at the ends; it causes mustiness and decay. They are next carefully placed in wagons and removed on the bulge, and laid in courses in a cool airy situation on the north side of a building near the cellar, protected by covering on the top of boards, so placed as to defend them from the sun and rain, while the air is not excluded at the sides. A chill does not injure them; it is no disservice; but when extreme cold weather comes on, and they are in imminent danger of being frozen, whether by night or by day, they are carefully rolled into a cool, airy, dry cellar, with an opening on the north side, that the cold air may have free access—they are laid in tiers, and the cellar is in due time closed and rendered secure from frost. The barrels are never tumbled or placed on the head. Apples keep best when grown in dry seasons and on dry soils. If fruit is gathered late, and according to the above directions, repacking is unnecessary, it is even ruinous, and should on no account be practiced till the barrel is opened for use. It has been fully tried.

LINNÆAN BOTANIC GARDEN AND NURSERIES.

Flushing near New-York.

WM. PRINCE & SONS, proprietors, of this establishment have published their new Catalogues with reduced prices, which they will send gratis to every applicant; and orders transmitted per mail receive the same attention as if the person were present The nurseries now cover near 50 acres of ground, and contain more than a million of Trees and Plants, all vigorous, and under the most careful management. The Catalogues for distribution gratis are as follows:

No. 1. Fruit and Hardy Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Plants—pp 93.
2. Bulbous and Tuberous rooted Plants and Dahlias, &c
3. Greenhouse Trees, Shrubs and Plants. pp. 44
4. A Catalogue of Vegetable, Field and Flower Seeds.

BOOKS—Prince's Treatise on Horticulture, 75 cts.
" " on the Vine, $1 50.
" " on Fruits, or Pomological Manual, containing descriptions in detail of about 800 varieties of Fruits, in 2 vols. $2.

The books and catalogues can be transmitted by mail at a postage of 1 1-2 to 2 1-2 cents per sheet.

The collection of Fruits comprises the choicest new varieties which have been recommended by the London Horticultural Society, and the proprietors having introduced them some years since, the trees for sale are of large size. The Chinese Morus multicaulis, several thousands at $25 per 100, or $4 1-2 per dozen. The collection of Roses and Dahlias being a selection of the most splendid and rare varieties, is altogether unrivalled in extent and magnificence. A liberal discount and credit is allowed to all venders, and the utmost attention is given to safe packing and despatch it is requested that all orders be sent *direct per mail* to the proprietors.

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BUFFALO NURSERY.

THE proprietor is annually making extensive additions to his stock of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Grapevines, &c.—and the nursery is now more complete in choice varieties and vigorous and healthy trees, than at any former period It embraces upwards if 100 varieties of the Apple,—thirty choice varieties of the Pear, thirty-three of the Peach, beside a very general assortment of the Plum, Cherry, Nectarine, Quince, &c Grape Vines, 15 kinds, Almonds, Filberts, Madeiranut, Locust Trees, various kinds trees from five to six feet high suitable for growing timber $6, per hundred. White Mulberry $1,50 per doz., $6, per hundred.

Horse Chesnuts, Alianthus or tree of Heaven, Chinese Mulberry, Balsam Fir, Snow Ball, Lilac, Double Flowering Almond, Catalpa, Weeping Willow, Purple Fringe Tree, &c. &c &c.

Rose Bushes, a handsome assortment.

Dahlias, a choice collection of this most splendid flower will be for sale at the Nursery in the spring.

Orders for the Nursery per mail or otherwise will receive the most prompt attention, and trees securely packed and forwarded as directed. Trees will be delivered on the wharf or Steam Boat at Buffalo, without charge, from whence they can be conveyed to any port on the western lakes without injury. BENJ. HODGE, Jr.

Buffalo, (near Cold Springs) Oct. 4, 1833.

oct 12 4t

ALMANACKS FOR 1834.

CHRISTIAN Almanac, Temperance Almanac and Farmer's Almanac for 1834, in large or small quantities—for sale by

oct 23 HOYT, PORTER & Co.

MONOS GARDEN AND NURSERY

GREECE, NEAR ROCHESTER, N. Y.

THE subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses. Vines, Creepers, Herbacious. Perrenial Plants, Bulbous Roots, &c.

Also, a few hundred of the Morus Multicaulis or Phillipine Mulberry, the white Italian Mulberry by the hundred or thousand, English Hawthorn Quicks, Grape Vines of both native and foreign varieties, mostly of large size, for sale by the single vine, hundred or thousand at reduced prices. The subscriber has a large Green House well filled with a large collection of choice Green-House Plants in good condition.

All orders, by mail or otherwise, will be promply attended to, and packages delivered in Rochester or at the mouth of Genesee River.

ASA ROWE.

Orders for Mr. Rowe's Nursery received by the Publisher of this paper.

Catalogues may be had at the office of the Genesee Farmer—will be sent to those who wish them gratis October 5, 1833 f6m

TO BUILDERS AND FARMERS.

HIGHLY important and useful improvement in securing Frame buildings against the effects of the external atmosphere.

The subscriber is owner and proprietor of the Patent, taken out in 1832, by Ebenezer Mix, Esq., of Batavia, for his very important improvement in securing houses and other farm buildings against the effects of *heat*, *frost* and *moisture* in the atmosphere.

This improvement was noticed in the Genesee Farmer, in the fall of 1832, and is now offered to the public notice. Its cheapness and importance to the comfort of buildings strongly recommend it to the attention of a discerning community.

By this improvement the great and long desired point, of disarming the external atmosphere of its unpleasant effects upon the comfort and well being of families is very fully attained

Applications to the subscriber, post paid, inclosing the inconsiderable equivalent of five dollars, will procure for the applicant the privilege with instructions for using the said Patent-right in the erection of one single building or dwelling house.

JOHN LOWBER.

Batavia, Genesee Co., N. Y., Oct. 5 1833.

oct 5 6m

ELECTION NOTICE.

Monroe County, } Rochester, Sept. 12, 1833.
Sherif's Office. }

A GENERAL Election is to be held in the County of Monroe, on the 4th, 5th, and 6th days of November next, at which will be chosen the officers mentioned in the notice of the Secretary of State, of which a copy is annexed.

E. M. PARSONS, Sherif.

State of New-York, } Albany, Aug. 10, 1833.
Secretary's Office. }

SIR—I hereby give you notice, that at the next general election in this State, to be held on the 4th, 5th, and 6th days of November next, a Senator is to be chosen in the Eighth Senate District, in place of Albert H. Tracy, whose term of service will expire on the last day of December next

Notice is also given, that at the said election the following proposed amendments to the Constitution of this State will be submitted to the people, viz:

1. "For electing the Mayor of the the City of New-York by the electors thereof"

2. "For authorising the Legislature to reduce the duties on salt." JOHN A. DIX,

To the Sherif of the County of Monroe. } *Secretary of State.*

sept 14-arf

N. B. The Inspectors of Election in the several towns in your County will give notce of the election of Members of Assembly, and for filling any vacancies in County Offices which may occur.